

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

September 28, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

CHARLES A. COOPER

SUBJECT:

NSSM on International Cooperation in Agriculture

Work is progressing at a moderate pace on NSSM 187 on International Cooperation in Agriculture, (Tab A). Initially, both State and Agriculture concentrated primarily on the trade issues, and repeated the U.S. competitive advantage arguments which have driven our policy for the past two decades.

State based its first draft on the assumption that agricultural supplies would be in surplus for the foreseeable future. Surprisingly, Agriculture has now given us a major assist (together with your UN speech) in getting State to back off of this surplus assumption, and begin dealing with a situation where the best we can say about agricultural supplies in the future is that there is a considerable degree of uncertainty.

The next draft will focus more on such subjects as food aid, disaster relief, and world food reserves on which international cooperation appears more promising than on reduction of trade barriers.

Parallel drafts are being prepared by State and Agriculture. These will be ready by about October 3. Additional refinement will be required, and the two drafts will have to be merged. I have indicated that the deadline can be extended from September 28 to October 12.

I understand the International Organizations Bureau is sending you a memo on the organization and agenda for the UN Food Conference. You may want to examine the conclusions of the NSSM before deciding on a U.S. position on the agenda, and other organizational issues, including whether the Conference should be held in the U.S.

NSS Review Completed.

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September 5, 1973

National Security Study Memorandum 187

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Secretary of Agriculture
 The Director of Central Intelligence
 The Director, Office of Management and Budget
 The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
 The Special Representative for Trade Negotiations
 The Assistant to the President for International
 Economic Policy

SUBJECT: International Cooperation in Agriculture

The President is concerned about the foreign policy repercussions arising from the various problems associated with the international agricultural situation. Agricultural policy has long been a source of irritation in our relations with Europe, and the recent emergency of protein and grain shortages has brought a new dimension to this agricultural problem. The current high prices in world markets for agricultural commodities, and the reductions in PL-480 availabilities are also causing problems for many developing countries and for us in our relations with them.

It is evident that the upcoming discussions and negotiations with other countries must ensure that future international cooperation in agriculture develops so as to be responsive to the changing nature of the foreign policy, as well as the economic, problems in this area.

In view of the above, the President has directed that a study be undertaken to review the foreign policy implications of various U.S. international agriculture policies which might be put forward during international discussions of the world agricultural situation and cooperation. Taking into account the evolving supply/demand picture for major agricultural products, the study should include examination of:

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- a. How international cooperation can support U.S. agricultural legislation in increasing agricultural production and assuring farmers that increased production will not unduly depress the prices they receive.
- b. The foreign policy implications of and likely response to various international commodity arrangements which might serve U.S. interests in the future.
- c. Ways for improving and sharing the costs of meeting essential food needs of developing countries.
- d. The negotiability of various forms of international cooperation in agriculture.

In conducting this study, the focus should be on ways in which international agricultural policies can effect our overall foreign policy objectives. The roles of the USSR and the PRC in international agricultural trade should be considered, as well as the interests of developing nations. Approaches that have been suggested by other countries and international organizations, as well as those currently proposed by the United States, should be considered during the course of the study.

This study should not attempt to lay out a detailed blueprint for future international cooperation, but to provide a general survey of the foreign policy implications of various international agricultural policies, of the broad possibilities for future international cooperation, and general guidelines for future discussions with other countries in this area. A more detailed study may be required at a later date.

The study should be conducted by an NSC Interagency Ad Hoc Group comprising representatives of the addressees and the NSC staff, and chaired by a senior official from the Department of State. It should be completed and ready for review not later than September 28, 1973.


Henry A. Kissinger

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